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THE INTELLIGENCER.

WHEELING, OCTOBER 8, 1897.

Not a Gerrymander.

The Register continues to imagine that it sees in the purpose of the county commissioners to change the boundary lines of the districts of the county, to make them conform to the requirements of the constitution, a base plot or something of other, designed for the benefit of the Republican party. It makes this general assertion without producing one single argument in support of it—only words and nothing more.

It is a habit of the Register to see in every piece of legislation, in every policy pursued by a Republican body, a partisan scheme. In its blind malice it cannot see how even a compliance with the mandate of the organic law of the state can be honest, if it is done by a Republican authority. This is the sort of mendacity which renders the Register's opposition disgusting to intelligent men who take the pains to investigate facts. It only appeals to the ignorant and thoughtless ones who are ever ready to have their partisan prejudices appealed to.

The situation regarding the redistricting of the county is simply this: When the districts were formed as they are now the population of the county was much smaller than it now is and it was more scattered. The lines were laid so that the population was as nearly equal as possible among the seven so-called city districts and the three country districts as possible under the circumstances—this in obedience to the constitution of the state.

Since that time many changes have taken place in the conditions, and it now happens that the districts are more unequal in this respect, and in order that they may conform to the requirements of the law some slight changes should be made. The changes will not be radical, but the inconvenience and irregularity of having some districts with almost double the population of others can be easily corrected, and that, too, without committing any deep, dark political outrage, such as our dyspeptic and partisan blind neighbor fancies it sees.

Our neighbor answers the proposition of the Intelligencer with this light remark: "If the constitution is violated by the present boundary lines, as the organ tells us it is, then it has been violated nearly a quarter of a century."

This shows a lack of investigation on the part of our neighbor, to say nothing of it being a strange suggestion that a "violation" of the constitution should be allowed to stand because it has existed for some time. The fact is that twenty years ago, shortly after the present constitution went into effect, the districts of the county were more equally divided than they are now in point of population, the differences being comparatively slight.

We have only voting statistics by districts on which to base an estimate, and for the purpose take the returns of the presidential elections of 1876 and 1896, both of which were characterized by what was regarded as a full vote. In the "city districts" in 1876 and 1896 the total vote was as follows:

	1876.	1896.
Washington	820	1,232
Madison	885	1,507
Clay	802	1,231
Union	928	1,413
Centre	651	788
Webster	605	1,823
Ritchie	848	1,642

It will be seen that twenty years ago the vote indicated a fairly equal population, there being but two apparent discrepancies. In the country districts which are harder to equalize always on account of the more scattered population, the total vote was:

	1876.	1896.
Ritchie	322	415
Liberty	357	423
Philadelphia	537	1,041

A comparison of the votes will show that the populations of the districts are now much more disproportionate than they were in 1876, and the necessity for the proposed change is plain to every one. The matter has been discussed for more than a year past, when the inconveniences of the present arrangements more than once became apparent. There can be no politics in it. A communication to the Register from President McGregor, of the board, which that paper refused to publish because Mr. McGregor handled its editorial statements without gloves, and which will be found in this morning's Intelligencer, makes this fact plain.

Just the Reverse.

The refunding scheme will preclude the possibility of any important improvements in the city, without the accompanying luxury of increased taxes—Register.

Exactly the reverse of the above is true. The whole purpose of the plan is to enable the city to make the improvements needed. The policy of applying all the revenues to the payment of the debt, instead of prolonging the debt at a reduced interest, and using such revenues as are needed in making needed improvements, would result in no improvements being made.

ments being made. It is a business policy which is proposed, such as other cities and corporations have adopted with profit. It is the policy which is being pursued by the Baltimore & Ohio railroad receivers, who are rehabilitating that vast property and placing it on a paying basis. If the Register will apply some reasoning powers to a discussion of the question and lay aside its partisan bias, it will take the business side of the question after awhile.

Thoughtful men are not opposed to the extension of the debt at a low rate of interest. An immediate liquidation of the debt, were it possible, would not be wise. It would tend to extravagance and bring on a state of affairs which no honest citizen would like to see. Under the proposed arrangement without increased taxation, money will be available each year for improvements of a permanent and modern character to hand down to posterity, which would do its share toward paying for what is left for it to enjoy in the way of good streets, a good sewage system, &c. For this season it is good public policy.

The Prince's Latest Fad.

There is a flutter among the "chappies" of fashionable society over the announcement which has been flashed across, or rather under, the ocean with lightning speed that the Prince of Wales has a new hat—that is, that he has adopted a new style of hat. In New York the dude, of course, must now get another new hat, because he must always have a hat like the prince's or he will not be in it with the other "chappies."

The New York Times describes his royal highness's new hat as a "sort of Fritz Emmet jodding affair." It is, says the Times, of the Alpine persuasion and has a cock's feather in the side. Gentlemen who wear such hats frequent the Black forest and shoot things with long German names. After that, they go home and drink long stints of Hofbrau and tell long stories about all the things they did not shoot. And then the Times tells how it will be different in this country when the Charles here in America get their new hats, as follows:

The few devoted followers of "Charlie over the water" will wear frock coats and carry canes, smoke cigarettes, drink "pegs," and say "How do, old chappie?" And the rest of mankind will continue to wear the ordinary "fedoras" or "bikers," and will laugh at the gentlemen with the cock's feathers to scorn. For this is a cold and cautious land, and though it dearly loves a lord only a few of its citizens try to dress like princes.

The attempt to introduce eccentric styles of dress for men in this country is never popular except among the few brainless youths who ape after lords and dukes and princes. Our New York contemporary points out several instances. Among them was the attempt of the New York tailors some time since to introduce plum-colored evening dress clothes, because that was the latest thing from London and Paris, but everybody stuck loyally to the black clawnhammer which has won so many victories of a similar nature. Afterward the haberdashers lost money trying to substitute something else for the white lawn tie with evening dress. Another instance was when the tailors said that to be in style one must wear light-colored satin waistcoats with colored flowery figures. It wouldn't take.

In all such efforts the tailors and haberdashers "have their trouble for their pains." The few men who ape after foreign fads in dress comprise an extremely small minority. And the reason is plain. There is too much common sense Americanism among American men. The prince of Wales's bottle green hat with a feather in it is the most absurd of all these fads; it is a little too much for even the "chappies," and should they adopt it they will soon be laughed out of it.

More Complications.

The refusal of Great Britain to participate in the seal conference with Japan and Russia may make it necessary for the United States to hold two conferences, one with Japan and Russia and one with Great Britain, and will complicate matters a great deal. It is also likely to strain relations between England and Japan and Russia, since in diplomatic circles the action of the British government is regarded as discourteous.

There is no unfriendliness expressed toward the United States in the refusal; on the contrary, the British government desired to participate in the conference until Canada refused to acquiesce if Japan and Russia should be in the conference. The whole attitude of the British foreign office at present seems to be due to the position taken by Canada, who was afraid she would be outvoted by Russia and Japan. What this government will do in the matter, of course cannot be foretold, for the problem which presents itself is complicated and will require some diplomatic maneuvering.

An Ohio friend calls the attention of the Intelligencer to a once popular song which has an application just now. "Billy" Rice, an old time negro minstrel of renown, and who is remembered well by the older generation of play-goers, used to sing it, and it applies to the recent Democratic trick to fool away the colored vote of Ohio. The song ran as follows:

He shook me long an' he shook me strong,
An' he shook me clear out of bed.
He shook me out into the clear moonlight,
And what do you think he said?
"There's gold in the mountains, there's silver in the mine,
And all there shall be yours, Uncle Ben,
If you only will be mine."
"Get thee gone, old Satan, and don't come back again;
You may fool de poor white trash, but you can't fool Uncle Ben."

Weyler, in his speech in response to an ovation tendered him by the Spanish citizens of Havana, gloated over the cruel policy he has pursued in the conduct of the war, and declared that he was in favor of "ending war with war." He has a contempt for all propositions to restore peace by dealing with the Cubans. No compromise would be considered by him. He believes that a granting of autonomy now would be disgraceful to the Spanish nation. He would continue his policy until the last man is exterminated or surrendered. This is the declaration of the butcher hailed down. The sooner Weyler is recalled from Cuba the better.

Wednesday's fire record was notable for the number of fatalities and the loss of property. The burning of an industrial school in South Dakota, involving the death of several young girls; the destruction of two villages in Canada; a Chicago fire, in which a number of people perished; the burning of a Detroit opera house, and numerous other blazes in which there were casualties, made up the day's list.

POINTEDLY PENNED.

It's all right to say that there is no free silver in this campaign, but how will it be when it comes to a vote on the election of Mr. Gorman's successor? Everybody knows that the only thing that stands between us and a free silver senator or Gorman, who stands for gold or silver, just as the occasion requires, is the election of a majority of the Republican candidates for the legislature.—Baltimore News.

Some Boston women have organized an anti-kissing crusade. That's right. The spectacle of a couple of women kissing each other when there is plenty of better material in sight makes the average man tired.—Philadelphia Press.

WHEN THE WORLD APPROVES

sure all is right. The Knabe piano has met with the approval of the world—it has been sold for years. The owners of Knabe pianos are its best advertisements. You will be acting rashly if you buy a piano without looking at the Knabe.

Milligan, Wilkin & Co.

Columbia Graphophone, \$25.

UNJUST DISCRIMINATION.

Girls Barred From the Preparatory Department of the University.
To the Editor of the Intelligencer.
SIR:—Some time ago the regents of our university showed their liberality by granting women the privilege of entering the collegiate department. That was well, and was a worthy deed, but their liberality did not extend as far as the people of West Virginia desire. Our girls are admitted to the collegiate department, but not to the preparatory. This seems very inconsistent. If the preparatory is necessary for our boys, why not for the girls? It has been said that the girls have not shown appreciation of the privileges proffered them by patronizing the university in large numbers. At present there are about forty in attendance. Suppose a large number do not take advantage of their privileges, is it just that those who desire to do so be prevented from gaining an liberal education as they desire? There is good reason for their non-attendance, because our girls have no place in our state where they receive proper preparation to enter the collegiate department.

Why show so much favor to our boys by giving them better advantages than our girls? Having no place in our state where they can make the necessary preparation, they have to go to institutions in other states to gain the education necessary to enter the collegiate department of our university. They go to Wooster, Pittsburgh, New York, Baltimore and other places because our state does not provide a means of education and having to seek their preparation elsewhere, they naturally finish their education where they began. The young girls seeking an education are far in excess of our boys. Any one can see the condition of affairs in our public schools. Four-fifths of the pupils who graduate are girls. The record made by girls in our public schools and in our university has been so creditable that they deserve a great deal of consideration. The great majority of state universities are open to girls on the same terms as for boys.

The question of education has been settled, and if it is to be co-educational, let it be so throughout. Notwithstanding the disadvantages to which the girls have been subjected, their number is increasing. None of the objections urged in the past will hold in the admission of girls in this case. As they are admitted to the collegiate, why not to the preparatory, unless it is done to make it more difficult for them to enter. Is this just? The girls win on their own merit, not because there is any favor shown them. Why do girls and women have to fight for that which men should be generous to give them?

I believe that the people of this state are just as willing to give the girls every advantage and privilege in their power, and such men are the regents of the university, men of education, culture and standing, have neglected this plain duty to the daughters of West Virginia because they have not given it their serious attention.

HUMOR AS IT FLIES.

In the Twentieth Century—"The Boy—'And was silver once a precious metal?' His Father: 'Yes; at one time silver was more valuable than coal.' Puck.

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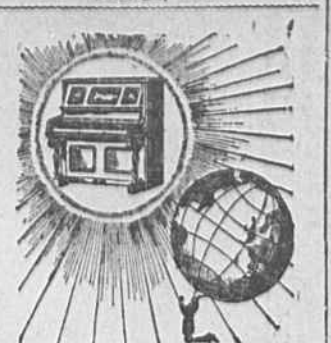
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PIANOS, ETC.



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GREATEST POPULAR MUSIC BAND IN THE WORLD.

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The most powerful dramatic effort of the century. Presented by a superb acting company. See the girl dive from the high bridge. Prices—50c, 75c and \$1.00. Seats on sale at C. A. House's music store Saturday, October 9.

OPERA HOUSE.

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Thursday, Friday and Saturday and Saturday Matinee, October 7, 8 and 9.

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Biggest and Best Vaudeville Company. Every act new, refined and up-to-date. Night prices, 15, 25, 35 and 50 cents. Matinee prices, 10, 25 and 35 cents.

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